

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05507 031041 Z

19

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 091621

O 030952 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9564

S E C R E T SAIGON 5507

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS

SUBJECT: GVN PLANNING MILITARY ACTION TO RELIEVE TON LE CHAN.

1. KY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD BENNETT APRIL 3 THAT THE MINISTRY IS SENDING LETTERS TO THE 12 NATIONS REPRESENTED AT THE PARIS CONFERENCE DRAWING ATTENTION TO COMMUNIST VIOLATION OF THE CEASEFIRE IN ITS SIEGE OF TON LE CHAN AND RESERVING THE GVN'S RIGHT TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS IN SELF- DEFENSE. ( THE U. S. WILL BE ASKED TO FORWARD LETTERS TO MOSCOW, BUDAPEST, WARSAW, UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE PRC.) KY SAID THAT THE GVN CONSIDERS THE CONTINUING COMMUNIST ATTACK ON TON LE CHAN TO BE PART OF A PLAN TO TAKE GVN TERRITORY IN SUCCESSIVE BITES, EACH NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO WARRANT U. S. INTERVENTION. THE GVN ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE COMMUNISTS HOPE AT TON LE CHAN TO HAND PRESIDENT THIEU A MILITARY DEFEAT WHILE HE IS ON HIS TRIP.

2. FROM MAJ. GEN. MURRAY OF USDAO WE LEARN THAT JGS HAS A PLAN TO RELIEVE TON LE CHAN AND THAT GROUND ACTION WILL BE PROCEDED BY THREE DAYS OF AIR PREPARATION BY VNAF. AN OPERATION OF THE SCOPE NEEDED TO RELIEVE THE GARRISON AT TON LE CHAN WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAD TO HEAVY FIGHTING. MURRAY BELIEVES THAT THE PRIME MINISTER MUST OBTAIN THIEU'S APPROVAL BEFORE LAUNCHING THE RELIEF OPERATION ON THE GROUND.

WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** hilburpw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON05507  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hilburpw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by hilburpw>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** GVN PLANNING MILITARY ACTION TO RELIEVE TON LE CHAN.  
**TAGS:** MOPS, VS  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
SS  
**Type:** TE  
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